

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

MEEHAN, Martin T. (Democrat)  
Representative, 5th District, Massachusetts  
Elected 1992 to the 103rd Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Lowell, Massachusetts - 30 December 1956

Home: Lowell, Massachusetts

Marital status: Married (Ellen) - 1 child

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Univ of Massachusetts, BA, 1978; Suffolk Univ, MA, M.P.A., 1981; JD, 1986

Military: None specified

Profession: Lawyer

Political: No previous public office. Defeated Rep Chester Atkins in the Democratic primary and Paul Cronin (R) in the general election with 58% of the vote. Reelected in 1998 with 71% of the vote, was unopposed in 2000 and received 60% in 2002.

Rep Meehan is a liberal who ran for office on a platform advocating a 50% defense cut. Two of his passions are campaign finance reform and anti-smoking advocacy. He generally has moved to cut defense spending but attempts to boost local Raytheon operations (Patriot missile). In the 106th Congress, criticized huge increases in homosexual discharges. Said increases "should set off alarm bells as to whether 'don't ask, don't tell' is working properly. Sought reelection in Nov 2000 despite a 1992 pledge to step down in 2001. Opposed to the Army's School of the Americas, a training ground for military officers from Latin and South America. Voiced concern regarding a provision in the FY00 DoD auth that prohibited the use of funds for the purpose of conducting combat or peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia. Asserted that he was confident that not only would the strikes in Kosovo be effective, but also every precaution would be taken to reduce civilian casualties. "Not only will our action stop the atrocities, we also have an opportunity to make sure the violence does not spread outside of Kosovo. Pleased that funding was restored for the Air Force Lab at Hanscom. Stating that the Air Force's Science and Technology budget is critical to Hanscom, expressed concern with the scheme to fund the Space-Based Laser and Radar program with Science and Technology money. During the Service Secretaries' posture hearing, asked how we could maintain the competitive edge with a skilled workforce if we continue cuts. Announced that Raytheon Systems Company would receive a Navy contract for the procurement of new and upgraded surface-to-air missiles. Urged increased funding for veterans health care.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, took over as ranking Democrat on the HASC R&D subcommittee. In On 6 March 2002 said he was concerned that the phrase 'capabilities-based requirements' was "being used to cover programs that are not responsive to the threat..." Added "We have three advanced fighters fully funded at a time when we are engaged in a very expensive war on terrorism against enemies with no advanced aircraft in their inventories." Objected to the price tag for the missile defense program and efforts that he said DoD was taking to exempt the program from traditional oversight controls. Objected to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR). Characterized the F-22 as an evolutionary system. AF Bases: Hanscom AFB

## COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Terrorism, Unconventional Threats & Capabilities (Ranking);  
Total Force

JUDICIARY